



“We the Friends of Mary Ward, guided by her indomitable spirit commit ourselves to be Seekers of Truth and Doers of Justice, for the Greater Honor and Glory of God”

The extraordinary life of our foundress Venerable Mother Mary Ward has inspired thousands of her followers all over the world. Challenged by her indomitable spirit and stirred by a greater desire to be collaborators in building a world of universal brotherhood, fraternal love and unity FMW Allahabad has committed themselves to walk the path of our Foundress - the path of **Freedom, Justice and Sincerity**. ‘**Be the Seekers of Truth and Doers of Justice**’ is the motto that guides our steps. By making a choice to be a friend of this great mother we realize that we are called upon to build right relationship with God, Others, Oneself and with our Common Home Mother Earth, so that together as one human Family we can make the vision of building our Heavenly Father’s family of love, justice, peace, and Reconciliation a reality. It is with this aim, a number of activities are planned by the **Friends of Mary Ward** in collaboration with our teachers, students, parents and well-wishers and are implemented in all our schools, a glimpse of which is the content of the first edition of FMW Allahabad news bulletin. I take this opportunity to thank all the sisters, Coordinators and the FMW members whose enthusiasm in growing in the spirituality of Mother Mary Ward has come alive in all that we have been able to do in the past three months. May her life continue to inspire us!

Sr. Lissy CJ
FMW Coordinator (Allahabad Province)

ST. MARY’S CONVENT INTER COLLEGE, RDSO, LUCKNOW

FMW JUNIOR GROUP

The teachers’ group of FMW has been active at St. Mary’s Convent Inter College since 2017. We initiated the students’ group of FMW in the year 2019. Since then, every year, students volunteer to be a part of FMW so that learning from her life’s values they too can be transformers of a society through their



own personal transformation. During this pandemic, virtual platform was the best option for our monthly meetings, discussions and other activities. Therefore, a virtual welcome session was organized for the new members and the life journey of Mother Mary Ward was explained to them in short. The cabinet members introduced themselves and then the speakers threw light on different stages of Mother Mary Ward's extraordinary and inspiring life. The insignia of being a true friend of our foundress that is, our logo and motto were displayed and explained to the new members. The lively session concluded with their active participation in answering questions, words of motivation and guidance by our Respected Principal and Headmistress. FMW students' group meet every month for their regular discussions, sharing and planning under the inspiring guidance of Sr. Lissy, Sr. Renu and their coordinator Ms. Swati Mukherjee.

Service to Humanity is Service to God

The easiest way to connect with Almighty is by serving his creation. FMW chose to spread joy by helping the underprivileged children of Mary Ward School, as most of their parents lost their livelihood and were facing existential threat due to the Covid lockdown. During our regular meetings a decision was made to garner some life sustaining items and support them in this difficult situation. All the teachers contributed whole heartedly for this noble cause.



The responsibility of purchasing and packaging was entrusted to FMW members Sir Ram Singh and Sir Anurag Pandey. On 2nd August, after seeking God's blessings, provision kits were distributed and we were

able to help seventy needy families.

It is rightly said that when our actions are driven by pure intentions and gratitude, Almighty holds our hands and makes us sail through the entire journey. And so was this experience where our little efforts became a source of extreme happiness for the ones who are the closest to and the most loved for the Almighty.



Efforts to Bridge the Digital Gap

In the midst of pandemic, when the vulnerable section of the society was worried about their existence, thinking about uninterrupted online classes through smartphones for their children



was nothing less than luxury for them. But we all know that online platform was the only means to maintain academic continuity. While reflecting upon this situation, FMW members felt the need to reduce this digital gap. The school management, teachers and all FMW members contributed graciously for this mission. It was the result of perseverance and diligent efforts by Ma'am Arvind Tewari who, taking the help of the Ex- students of our school made it possible for us to distribute thirteen smartphones to the parents of Mary Ward school children.

Celebration of 'Kindness Week' (23rd August- 29th August, 2021)

“Almighty God loves a cheerful giver.”

This maxim of Mother Mary Ward was conscientiously observed and followed in the “**Kindness week celebration**”. This week-long celebration was aimed at spreading the joy of sharing and to let the needy feel the warmth of kindness. Every child was motivated to perform a simple act of kindness by sharing a ‘**Happiness kit**’



with the deprived, to brighten their day.

Students of all the classes were invited to participate. Overwhelming support from the parents and enthusiastic participation of our students gave us a hope that in times to come, they will create a positive ripple effect in the larger community as responsible citizens. The empathetic actions performed by children were not restricted to the needy section of the society but they extended their love towards Mother Nature, birds, and stray animals too.

Insightful Monthly Meetings....

FMW monthly meetings are symbiotic and they act as a vital force that aligns our actions with the vision of our movement. In this new session, we continued with our meetings which were held on last Saturday of every month. Every session was led by one of the FMW members. The inferences from each meeting deeply influence each one of us and inspire us to sustain the indomitable spirit of Mary Ward within ourselves. We reflected upon the following points in various meetings- The first phase of life of Mary Ward, Search for the meaning of life, The importance of praying and The legacy of Mother Mary Ward.



Better Vision for A Better Life

In order to carry forward the legacy of Mother Mary Ward that is **“To love the poor, persevere in the same.”**, Friends of Mary Ward, in collaboration with the Sun eye hospital organized a **free eye checkup camp** within the school premises for the teachers and students of Mary Ward School on 23rd August, 2021.



The objective behind this camp was to provide free checkup and consultation, for the prevention and detection of any eye related ailment. This initiative was led and realized by the efforts put in by our FMW Coordinator Ma'am Ruchi Seth and the entire team of FMW. A team of five ophthalmologists from Sun Eye Hospital rendered their generous service for this noble cause.

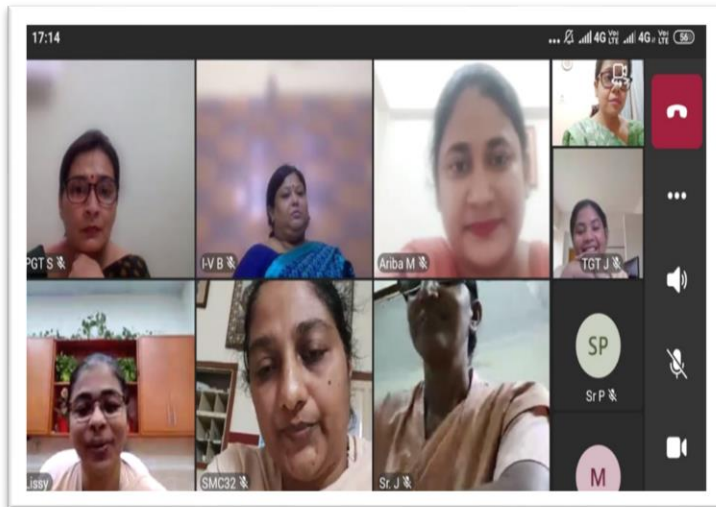
St. Mary's Convent Inter College, Allahabad

“I have come that they might have life and have it abundantly” John 10:10

With this thought in mind, belief in heart and trust in God, we at SMC, Prayagraj, integrate education with human emotions of love, compassion, unity and oneness. The seeds of selfless service once sown by Venerable Mother Mary Ward are being nurtured by her companions with conviction and commitment. The indomitable spirit of Mother Mary Ward has been a continuous source of inspiration.

As true companions of Mother Mary Ward we cherish her values of Character, Compassion, Competence and Conscience and seek to carry forward her legacy with zeal and enthusiasm.

A new Awakening!



To follow her journey of Justice and Truth and with the objective of reviving the indomitable spirit of Mother Mary Ward in all of us, a virtual meeting was organized by Sr. Lissy CJ the Province FMW Coordinator on 17th July, 2021, for all the Principals and the FMW Coordinators of the different schools of Allahabad Province. It also aimed at exploring the area

of service of FMW to accomplish the dream envisioned by Mother Mary Ward. All the members felt enthused listening to the sharing of one another and resolved to remain connected and make every effort to grow in the spirituality of Mother Mary Ward. The like-minded people vouched to stand tall to the motto of “Seekers of Truth and Doers of Justice” and pledged to be the flag-bearers of Justice, Truth and Compassion in their journey with Mother Mary Ward. The commencement of various activities validated the enthusiasm of every member of FMW.



“Do good and Do it well”



This maxim of Mother Mary Ward was meticulously executed through an online activity “Do a Good Deed”. This week-long activity was taken up by the students of all age groups to cultivate the values of sharing. The essence of kindness and compassion was brought forth by the students of SMC, who spread the virtues of altruism effortlessly.



A Helping Hand...

With fortitude and perseverance, on 16th August, 2021 the FMW Group-1 teachers came forward to extend a helping hand to the flood victims. There was a unique display of camaraderie as, the management and the staff contributed generously for this noble mission. The team members, accompanied by the Principal, Sr. Jyoti CJ, Vice Principal. Sr. Surbhi CJ and Sr. Rose CJ visited the slum area under the Old Naini Bridge located in Gaughat, Prayagraj. The flood affected families were provided with packed food items and some fruits. This small act of kindness brought some relief into their lives inundated with misery.



Creative Minds Inspire!

As we witness the metamorphosis, exploring the minds’ labyrinth, the students’ group of FMW is on a mission to make a difference. With supreme self-confidence they exhibited their creative potentials on the topic “Creative Writing of Maxims”. Though the skill was displayed on paper but had



immense power to arouse the fire of hope in the hearts of many.



With exemplary deeds and promising attitude FMW Students' Group marched forward to embark on their new venture. This time they unravelled their hidden talents of "Writing Poems" The entries reached us by 10th September, 2021 which fortified our growth. The assiduous effort by each member is applaudable.

"Cleanliness is next to Godliness"



Adhering to this motto Group-2 undertook a meaningful activity of educating women on "Health and Hygiene". Being well aware of the lack of information about menstrual health and hygiene and living in a culture of shame and silence, the deprived women end up using poor substitutes like rags and dirty clothes. It was an initiative to promote and educate women on personal hygiene and care that would protect

them from various diseases that arise from unhygienic conditions. Hence, the FMW team under the able guidance of Sr. Rose CJ took the responsibility of distributing sanitary napkins to young women in one of the slum areas opposite Parade Ground on 6th September, 2021. The overwhelming response made the act worthwhile.



Motivation Energizes....



"Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine."

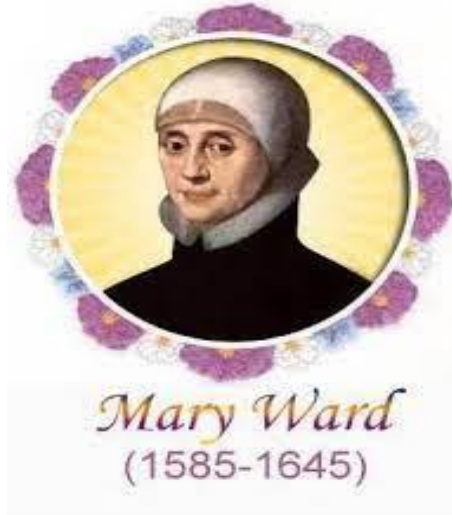
On the eve of 21st September, 2021, Sr. Celine CJ took charge of empowering the minds of FMW members through an insightful session on the

topic, **"Charism and Spirituality of Mother Mary Ward"**. The virtual session was well coordinated under the guidance of Sr. Jyoti, the Principal of SMCIC Prayagraj and Sr. Rose, the Co-Ordinator of



FMW who extended invitation to the Principals, Sisters and Teachers of other schools. Sr. Celine emphasized on the essence of spirituality in the words of Swami Vivekanand, “Religions divide, Spirituality unites.” She led the members into the depths of spirituality and the tenets of Justice, Freedom, Sincerity and oriented them to find God in all actions. Furthermore, she elucidated the attributes of a good leader which connotes power of guidance and not of authority. Sr. Celine motivated all to imbibe the core values of Mother Mary Ward so that the motto of FMW to be ‘Seekers of Truth and Doers of Justice’ become a reality in our lives.

An excellent example of love and charity



An excellent example of love and charity,
To you, let me pay my tribute, humble
For you are a blessing to, innumerable
To one and all you were, indeed a mother
Because your life has only been for others.
On an ordinary day to this selfish world
A messenger was sent by Almighty God.
The birth of an ordinary human being
Who lived for others’ wellbeing,
But was she just an ordinary woman
She, who had the courage,
to teach the whole world a lesson
How easily she gave up her career enriching
All these works were easy writing
But the actual tasks were Indeed gruelling.

*Composed by
Aarohi Tandon
class 7B*

St. Mary's Convent High School, Kanpur

Virtual Meetings of Friends of Mary Ward

We the Friends of mother Mary Ward met each other virtually once in the month of July and then in August to learn more about Venerable Mary Ward. Sr. Roshini, the Manager, presided over the first meeting in which she threw light on Aims and Objectives of Mary Ward education and also the Vision and Mission. She advised us to spend at least ten minutes daily with God as reflection can help us in transforming ourselves. Self-transformation can only lead to Social Transformation. Sr. Prabha and Sr. Roselette also enlightened us with their inspiring words.

During our second meeting held on 28th August, Miss Alisha Michael conducted a session on the 'Spirituality and charism of Mother Mary Ward'. She concluded it by saying 'We are her companions today, and it is our responsibility to spread the values of our Mother Mary Ward in the society.' In order to deepen our knowledge of Mother Mary Ward we have also undertaken a study of her life, based on which a quiz will be conducted in the month of January.

Kindness Week Celebrations



No Language is sweeter than compassion. In order to instill the values of charity, helpfulness and sharing, 'Kindness Week' was observed by the students as well as the teachers. The students and the teachers lent a helping hand to the needy.

All for the Greater Honour and Glory of God!!